of the bank there have been seven cases of complete default and 25 cases of partial default. Though the amounts involved in these cases are small it is important that the leading men in the State should take a voluntary interest in the operations of the bank and impress upon the borrowers the need for promptly meeting the annual obligations for repayment.

Debt Conciliation.

16. The Debt Conciliation Regulation has been brought into operation in the State. This is in a large measure a natural corollary to the establishment of the Land Mortgage Bank. Most of the agricultural debtors are indebted so heavily that it is not possible for any sound banking institution to advance on the security of the properties the entire amount covered by the debts. There has to be naturally therefore a process of conciliation, and it is hoped that the work of the Board will achieve this result. The fact that the Board will operate only in three taluks of the State need not cause any discouragement to the inhabitants of other taluks. The whole machinery of debt conciliation is new, and experience alone can show the difficulties and dangers involved in this process. It is with a view to gain the requisite experience that the operations of the Board have for the present been confined to a part of the State. Honourable Members may rest assured that if this experiment is found successful at the end of the year, boards will be established for the other parts of the State also.

Uplift work.

17. The work done in the Department of the Protector of the Depressed Classes is one of the most outstanding ameliorative measures undertaken by Government. For well over a decade attention has been devoted to the question of the uplift of the depressed classes in the State. The provision of facilities for education to the children of these classes, and the provision of house-sites and buildings for their habitation are the two main items of work in this direction. Conscious of the fact that it is by advancement in education alone that the status of these unfortunate communities can be raised and their disabilities removed, Government have been consistently following a policy of affording greater and greater facilities in this direction. The success of our policy can be demonstrated by the fact that to-day very nearly 70 per cent of the children of these communities of school-going age are receiving education. While three years ago the total number of boys and girls of the depressed

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